

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Connecticut Office

35 Cold Spring Rd, Suite 411
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
860-563-1177
800-541-8350
Fax 860-563-6018

Massachusetts Office

29 Crafts St, Suite 450
Newton, MA 02458
617-244-1800
800-766-9449
Fax 617-558-7686

New Hampshire Office

6 Chenell Dr, Suite 260
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-9322
800-639-2113
Fax 603-224-3778

Rhode Island Office

2348 Post Rd, Suite 104
Warwick, RI 02886
401-739-3773
Fax 401-739-8990

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Terry B. Gerratana and Susan M. Johnson, Chairs, and Members
Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RAISED BILL 1068: An Act Concerning Care Coordination for Chronic Disease

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee:

The Arthritis Foundation supports the proposals in Raised Bill 1068 to develop a plan to reduce the incidence and impact of chronic disease in the state and to improve care coordinator.

However, we are dismayed that arthritis is not listed as one of the targeted chronic diseases. We encourage the Committee to add arthritis to the list of chronic diseases for the following reasons:

- Arthritis is the leading cause of disability, according to CDC².
- 617,000 adults or 23% of the state's adult population has doctor-diagnosed arthritis, according to newly released CDC estimates¹
- By 2030, the number of adults with doctor-diagnosed arthritis in the state will increase to 731,000³
- 47% of adults with diabetes also have arthritis
- 39% of adults with hypertension also have arthritis
- 32% of obese adults also have arthritis

Why is the increasing prevalence and co-morbidity of arthritis important to address? Arthritis is the major cause of activity limitation and a major contributor to activity limitation in diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. If the proposed plan to reduce the incidence and impact of chronic disease does not include arthritis, it will have a limited impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan M. Nesci, MS, MA
Vice President, Public Policy & Advocacy
35 Cold Spring Road, Suite 411
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
860-563-1177
860-563-6018 FAX
snesci@arthritis.org

¹CDC, 2013 unpublished.

²Hootman J, Hemlick CG: Projections of US prevalence of arthritis and associated activity limitations. *ArthRheum* 54:226-229, 2006.

³CDC. Projected state-specific increases in self-reported doctor-diagnosed arthritis and arthritis-attributable activity limitations-United States, 2005-2030. *MMWR* 56: 423-425, 2006.